



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

fw
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,023	02/21/2002	Zheng David Lou	10541-1281	7750

29074 7590 06/11/2003
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60611

EXAMINER

MICHALSKY, GERALD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3753
DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003 6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	LOU, ZHENG DAVID
Examiner Gerald A. Michalsky	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the source of fluid at low pressure being a volume of fluid contained apart from the valve assembly in a valve of the type of Figure 3, as specified in claim 10, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Yokota et al, Baldauf et al, Bartholomaus, or Japanese Publication No. 63-208910. The effective filing date of this application is 21 February 2002. The preamble of claim 1 merely relates to intended use and is given no weight in an apparatus claim. These claims are anticipated by Figure 2 of Yokota et al. Orifice 86 of Figure 2 of Yokota et al is read as a "damping orifice". Orifice 56 of Bauldauf et al is read as a

"damping orifice". See Figure 1 of Bartholomaus. Orifice 11 of Figure 1 of Bartholomaus is read as a "damping orifice". Orifice 131 of Japanese '910 is read as a "damping orifice".

4. Claims 1 and 6 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oyama. The effective filing date of this application is 21 February 2002. The preamble of claim 1 merely relates to intended use and is given no weight in an apparatus claim. Either orifice 36 of Figures 1-2 of Oyama or orifice 36A of Figures 3-4 of Oyama is read as a "damping orifice".

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Koenings or Arnold in view of Yokota et al. The effective filing date of this application is 21 February 2002. These claims are considered met by either Koenings or Arnold except for a "damping orifice". It would have been obvious in view of the damping orifice 86 shown in Figure 2 of Yokota et al to provide a damping orifice connected to the end chamber having spring 75 of Koenings or spring 58 of Arnold so as to provide damping to attenuate oscillations of the valve spool. With respect to claims 10 and 11, Figure 2 of Yokota et al teaches both a volume of fluid at low pressure at 37 contained apart from the valve assembly and a volume of fluid at low pressure at 78 contained in the valve assembly.

Art Unit: 3753

7. Claims 1 and 5-6 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation of "scaling" in claim 1, line 5 is inaccurate with respect to the elected species of Figure 3. Orifice 56 of Figure 2 is described in the specification as a "scaling" orifice. Orifice 62 of Figure 3 is described in the specification as a "damping" orifice. Therefore, the recitation of "scaling" with respect orifice 62 of the elected species of Figure 3 is inaccurate.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald A. Michalsky whose telephone number is (703) 308-1049. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 AM - 2 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Buiz can be reached on (703) 308-0871. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7765 for regular communications and (703) 308-7765 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Gerald A. Michalsky
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

GM
June 9, 2003